

Pollution and Food Taboos: A Practical Reason?

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ABSTRACT This study is on fish food taboos observed among some residents from the banks of the Piracicaba River (Porto Street, Piracicaba City, Brazil). Among the fish available from the polluted Piracicaba River, the caborja (*Haplosternum litoralle*) and the mandi (*Pimelodus maculatus*) are usually avoided as food. Whereas the caborja is avoided year round, the mandi is avoided especially when the river water level is low and pollutants may be more concentrated.